

## The Book of Romans, Lesson 2, Romans 1:1-3, "The Gospel"

- ✎ The last time we were together, we saw that Paul wanted us to know that, first and foremost, he belonged to someone else. A bondservant: set apart from the world and set apart to the work of Christ.
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### 1. Set apart for the Gospel of God

- ✓ What is the "gospel"? We hear it all the time: "gospel truth" or "Preach the gospel." From the German meaning "good spell" as opposed to a bad one or "good news" as opposed to bad news. For there to be good news, there has to have been bad news, that is what we find in the Scriptures: Galatians 3:10; Ezekiel 18:20; and Romans 6:23. The good news is that God is willing to forgive our sins by paying for them through the death of His Son, Jesus, Romans 6:23. As the old hymn states: "Depth of mercy, can there be mercy still reserved for me? Can my God His wrath forbear? Me, the chief of sinners' spare? I have long withstood His grace, long provoked Him to His face; would not hearken to His calls, grieved Him by a thousand falls."

### 2. God's gospel that was promised beforehand, Romans 1:2.

- ✓ The Gospel of Christ was promised before the time of Christ: 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 1:8-9; Titus 1:1-2; 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:19-20. We call the time of Christ starting 2000 years ago, but it actually started before time began.

### 3. God's Gospel promised beforehand through the prophets in the Holy Scriptures.

- ✓ I just read you places where this truth is proclaimed, but I didn't read to you exactly what Paul is referring to here. "The Holy Scriptures" couldn't have been referring to any part of the New Testament since Paul was in the process, along with other writers, of writing the New Testament at that time. He is speaking of Old Testament; Christ was promised in the Old Testament: Isaiah 53:1-6. All of it is God's Word, a person and his word are identical and cannot be separated. To give your word is to give yourself as collateral. The same is true with God: John 1:1. The Word of God is identical to God Himself. We don't worship ink and paper but we do worship the message of the ink and paper because the message from God is Jesus—Him we worship! The Bible is of divine origin and will last as long as God does: Matthew 24:35, because God's word is synonymous with His person. Even Angels are students of God's word, 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:10-12.

### 4. God's Gospel concerning His Son.

- ✓ Everything revolves around God's Son, Jesus. Without Him, there is no knowledge of God, no worship of God, no approaching God, no forgiveness from God. You haven't heard from God unless it leads you to Jesus: John 6:45. He is God's final revelation and testimony: Hebrews 1:1-2; and 1<sup>st</sup> John 5:11.

**Apart from Jesus, there is no good news. Jesus is the only remedy for our sins, the only way to God, the only Mediator between us and God, the only deliverer. The message of Scriptures isn't just about Jesus, it is Jesus! The gospel isn't just words; it is a Person.**

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